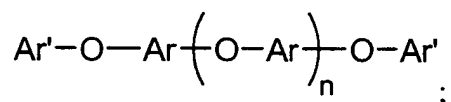


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-7. (cancelled)

8. (original) An aryl-terminated aromatic ether oligomer comprising the formula:



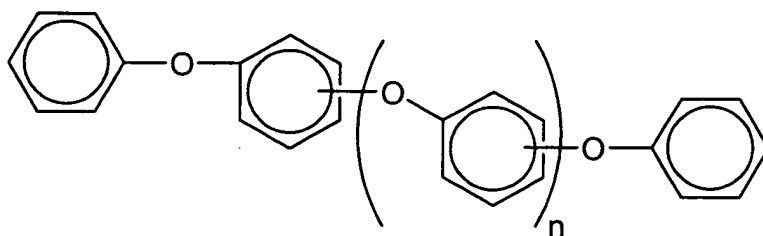
wherein Ar is an independently selected divalent aromatic radical;

wherein Ar' is an independently selected monovalent aromatic radical;

wherein n is an even integer greater than or equal to 2; and

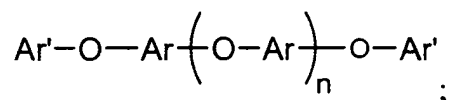
wherein n is not equal to 4 when every Ar is m-phenylene and every Ar' is phenyl.

9. (original) The aryl-terminated aromatic ether oligomer of claim 8, wherein the aromatic ether oligomer comprises the formula:



10-31. (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) A process of preparing an aryl-terminated aromatic ether oligomer comprising the formula:



wherein Ar is an independently selected divalent aromatic radical;

wherein Ar' is an independently selected monovalent aromatic radical; and

wherein n is an even integer greater than or equal to 2;

comprising the steps of:

reacting a dihydroxyaromatic with a dihaloaromatic to form an aromatic ether oligomer;

wherein either the dihydroxyaromatic or the dihaloaromatic is present in an excess amount; and

wherein the reaction is performed in the presence of a copper compound and ~~cesium carbonate~~ a base; and

reacting the product of the previous step with either a haloaromatic or a hydroxyaromatic;

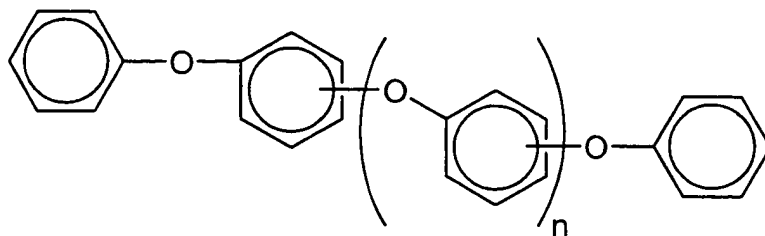
wherein the haloaromatic is used if the previous step used an excess of dihydroxyaromatic; and

wherein the hydroxyaromatic is used if the previous step used an excess of dihaloaromatic.

33. (original) The process of claim 32, wherein the copper compound is selected from the group consisting of CuI and CuBr.

34. (original) The process of claim 32,  
wherein the dihydroxyaromatic is present in an excess amount; and  
wherein the haloaromatic is used.

35. (original) The process of claim 32, wherein the aryl-terminated aromatic ether oligomer formed by the process comprises the formula:



36-55. (cancelled)

56. (new) The process of claim 32, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of cesium carbonate and potassium carbonate.